in the Govt. Medical Colleges of the State by suitably neutralising the admissions by reducing the intake capacity of the Government colleges over a period of time. By accepting the scheme, the State Government had issued necessary orders on 20th December, 2000, for adjusting the erstwhile students of PRIME medical college. A letter was, however, received on 2nd Feb., 2001 from the State Government seeking cancellation of these admissions. The Department of Health has acceded to the request of the State Government and the scheme offered for adjustment of students was withdrawn on 28th February, 2001.

Delay in disinvestment of Indian Airlines, VSNL and Hindustan Copper

*387. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that disinvestment in Indian Airlines, VSNL and Hindustan Copper faces further delay as Government are planning to hold up financial bidding till the eligibility guidelines are finalized for disqualifying tainted companies; and

(b) if so, the likely impact of such delays on achieving the disinvestment targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government has already finalized the guidelines prescribing the qualification criteria for the bidders, interested in acquiring the stakes in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under disinvestment. These guidelines have been issued on 13/7/2001.

The scrutiny of the eligibility of the existing bidders, to continue in the disinvestment process in terms of the guidelines, for the on-going disinvestment transactions, including Indian Airlines, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and Hindustan Copper Limited, is done simultaneously with the disinvestment process.

Though such scrutiny may result in disqualification of one or more bidders from the different disinvestment transactions, it is not expected to delay the disinvestment process.

(b) Does not arise.